

Application No.: 09/998,935

Case No.: 56196US011

Remarks

Claims 1 and 5-35 are pending. Claims 16-33 have been withdrawn from consideration. Withdrawn claims 16 and 28 have been amended. Claim 24 has been cancelled. Claim 36 has been added. Support for this new claim can be found, for example, in claim 1 as originally filed and in claim 4 as originally filed.

Withdrawn claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the amendments made to claim 1 (i.e., requiring the alkyl group to contain 1-8 carbon atoms and requiring the ratio between the number of equivalents of amide groups to the number of equivalents of carboxylic acid groups to be at least about 0.5. Support for the amendments can be found at claim 24 and page 7, lines 14-17. In addition, withdrawn claim 28 has been amended to remove acrylate having greater than 8 carbon atoms. (Support for this amendment can be found in claim 28 as originally filed.)

Common Assignment

Application No. 09/998,935 and U.S. Patent Nos. 6,441, 092 (Gieselman) and 6,441,114 (Peloquin) were, at the time the invention of Application No. 09/998,935 was made, commonly assigned to 3M Innovative Properties Co., St. Paul, MN.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 5-15, and 34-35 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Gieselman (US 6,441,092). Claims 1, 5-15, and 34-35 also stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Peloquin et al. (US 6,441,114).

Under 35 USC § 103(c), neither Gieselman nor Peloquin is available as prior art for use against the present application for a rejection under 35 USC § 103(a). Therefore, the rejection of claims 1, 5-15, and 34-35 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gieselman is unwarranted and should be withdrawn. Similarly, the rejection of claims 1, 5-15, and 34-35 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peloquin et al. is unwarranted and should be withdrawn.

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Rejoinder of Withdrawn Claims

Claims 16-33 were withdrawn, with traverse, in response to a restriction requirement. (See, Response and Amendment Under 37 CFR § 1.111 filed October 30, 2002.) Applicants respectfully request rejoinder and allowance of the withdrawn claims, as amended.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Allowance of all pending claims, at an early date is solicited.

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Date

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Respectfully submitted,

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